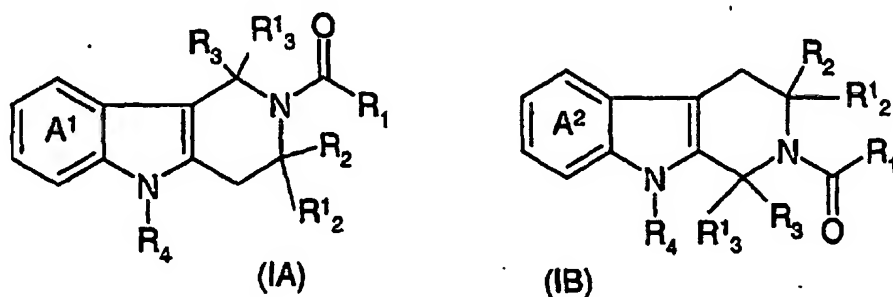


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB), or a salt, hydrate or solvate thereof



wherein fused rings A¹ and A² are optionally substituted;

R₁ represents a radical of formula -(Alk¹)_n-(X)_m-(Alk²)_p-Z wherein

Z represents a radical of formula -C(=O)NH(OH), or -N(OH)C(=O)Y

wherein Y represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, a phenyl or cycloalkyl ring,
 or a monocyclic heterocyclic radical having 5 or 6 ring atoms;

Alk¹ represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C₁-C₆ alkylene radical,

Alk² represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C₁-C₆ alkylene, C₂-C₆ alkenylene or C₂-C₆ alkynylene radical which may optionally contain an ether (-O-), thioether (-S-) or amino (-NR^A-) link wherein R^A is hydrogen or C₁-C₃ alkyl;

X represents an optionally substituted phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring;
 and

n, m and p are independently 0 or 1, provided that at least one of n, m and p is 1 and the length of radical -(Alk¹)_n-(X)_m-(Alk²)_p- is equivalent to that of a hydrocarbon chain of from 2-10 carbon atoms;

R_1^2 is hydrogen and R_2 is (a) an optional substituent or (b) a radical of formula $-(Alk^3)_r-Q$ wherein r is 0 or 1, Alk^3 represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene or C_2-C_6 alkynylene radical and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group; or R_1^2 and R_2 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

R_1^3 is hydrogen and R_3 is (i) an optional substituent or (ii) a radical of formula $-(Alk^3)_r-Q$ wherein r is 0 or 1, Alk^3 represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene or C_2-C_6 alkynylene radical and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group; or R_1^3 and R_3 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; and

R_4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the group Z in R_1 is a hydroxamate group $-C(=O)NHOH$ or N-hydroxyformylamino group $-N(OH)C(=O)H$.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the length of the radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p-$ in R_1 is equivalent to a chain of from 2 to 10 carbons, or 4 to 9 carbons, or 5 to 8 carbons.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the length of the radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p-$ in R_1 is equivalent to a chain of 6 carbons.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein, in radical R_1 , Z is $-(C=O)NH(OH)$, P is 1 and Alk^2 is $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-S-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-NH-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(OH)-$, $-CH_2CH(F)-$, $-CH_2C(F)_2-$, or $-CH_2(C=O)-$.

where W is -O-, -S-, -NH- or -N(CH₃)-; and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thienyl, furanyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, piperidinyl, or morpholinyl.

13. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 12 wherein Q is phenyl, 4-pyridyl, or pyrimidin-2-yl.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 wherein R¹₂ and R₂ taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R¹₃ is hydrogen and R₃ is trifluoromethyl, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, amino, mono- and di-methylamino, mono- or di-ethylamino, nitro, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, or methylsulfonylamino.

16. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R¹₃ is hydrogen and R₃ is a radical of formula -(Alk³)_r-Q wherein r is 0 or 1; Alk³ is -CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH-, -CH=CHCH₂-, -CH₂CH=CH-, CH₂CH=CHCH₂-, -C≡C-, -C≡CCH₂-, -CH₂C≡C-, -CH₂C≡CCH₂- or -CH₂W-, -CH₂CH₂W-, -CH₂CH₂WCH₂-, -CH₂WCH₂CH₂-, -CH₂WCH₂CH₂WCH₂-, or -WCH₂CH₂- where W is -O-, -S-, -NH- or -N(CH₃)-; and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thienyl, furanyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, piperidinyl, or morpholinyl.

17. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 16 wherein Q is phenyl, 4-pyridyl, or pyrimidin-2-yl.

18. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 wherein R¹₃ and R₃ taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

19. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R₄ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or n- or iso-propyl.

20. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein optional substituents in the fused rings A¹ and A² are selected from trifluoromethyl, methyl, ethyl n- and iso-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, amino, mono- and di-methylamino, mono- and di-ethylamino, nitro, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, and methylsulfonylamino.

21. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 20 in the preparation of a composition~~ of claim 21 containing an effective amount of the compound for inhibiting the activity of an HDAC enzyme

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in claim 23 for the inhibition of composition~~ of claim 22 wherein the activity is HDAC1 activity.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in claim 22 or claim 23 for the inhibition of composition~~ of claim 22 wherein the HDAC activity; is ex vivo or in vivo.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of cell-proliferation disease, polyglutamine disease, neurogenerative disease, autoimmune disease, organ transplant rejection, diabetes, haematological disorders and infection, which method comprises administering to a subject suffering such disease an

6. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein in the radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p$, Alk^1 and Alk^2 when present independently represent an unsubstituted, unbranched, C_1 - C_6 alkylene, C_2 - C_6 alkenylene or C_2 - C_6 alkynylene radical.

7. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 6 wherein in the radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p$, Alk^1 and Alk^2 when present independently represent $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH=CHCH_2-$, $-CH_2CH=CH-$, $CH_2CH=CHCH_2-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-C\equiv CCH_2-$, $-CH_2C\equiv C-$ or $-CH_2C\equiv CCH_2-$.

8. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein, in the radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p$, X when present represents an unsubstituted phenyl ring.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the linker radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p$, m is 0 and n , and/or p, or both ~~is/are~~ are 1.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the linker radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p$ is an unsubstituted, unbranched, saturated hydrocarbon chain of 4 to 9 carbons, or 5 to 8 carbons, or 6 carbons.

11. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R_2 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, ethyl, n- and iso-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, amino, mono- and di-methylamino, mono- and di-ethylamino, nitro, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, or methylsulfonylamino.

12. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a radical of formula $-(Alk^3)_r-Q$ wherein r is 0 or 1; Alk^3 is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH=CHCH_2-$, $-CH_2CH=CH-$, $CH_2CH=CHCH_2-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-C\equiv CCH_2-$, $-CH_2C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2C\equiv CCH_2-$ or $-CH_2W-$, $-CH_2CH_2W-$, $-CH_2CH_2WCH_2-$, $-CH_2WCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2WCH_2CH_2WCH_2-$, or $-WCH_2CH_2-$.

effective amount of a compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1.

28. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the disease is cancer, Huntingdon disease, or Alzheimer disease.